reed that these matters could be dicussed in the Joint Working Group on the boundary question.

(c) and (d) There is no agreed timeframe for the settlement of the boundary question.

Differences in interpretation of the Line of Actual Control in the Eastern Sector are the subject of discussion between the Governments of India and China.

It has been Government's consistent position that Tibet is an autonomous region of China. This stand was reiterated during the Prime Minister's visit.

Non-Supply of Indian Airlines Time Table

2254. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time table of Indian Airlines are not supplied to the Members of Parliament and to the public;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these time tables would be published and what steps Government propose to take for the regular and timely publication of the time tables and supply them to the Members of Parliament and the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The time tables of Indian Airlines are printed and distributed regularly. However, in December, 1988 and February, 1989 Indian Airlines could not publish its time tables due to rescheduling of flights due to capacity constraints. The schedules effective 1st March, 1989 have been printed and distributed.

Ban on Marine Officers to join Foreign Ships

2255. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Shipping (DGS) in consultation with his Ministry, has victimised a large number of marine officers through the blanket ban imposed on their joining foreign ships;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had earlier given no objection clearance to the marine officers to join foreign ships; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for revising the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Shortages of marine officers to man Indian ships have been reported to Government, Director General (Shipping) and on the basis of requests of the shipping industry, DG (Shipping) has issued a notification dt. 20.1.1989 under Section 115 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, requiring owner, master or agent of a foreign ship to obtain prior permission of the DG(S) before engaging in India, any engineer officer, navigating officer and radio officer.

(c) and (d) Prior to the issue of the above notification no permission of Government was required by marine officers to take up jobs on foreign ships and further this was not objected to on account of the lack of jobs on Indian ships during the earlier recessionary period.

Visit of Indian Team to China to discuss Border Issue

2256. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently sent a team for talks with China on the border issue;